

U.S. EPA Formaldehyde Regulation Takes Effect - Update for Interested Stakeholders

On May 22, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulation to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products went into effect. Accreditation bodies and third party certifiers can now apply to U.S. EPA for recognition under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI. Although the regulation is now effective, U.S. EPA recently proposed to amend the regulation to delay the compliance dates for all regulatory provisions, including the emission standards and labeling requirements, from December 12, 2017 to March 22, 2018. Other compliance dates would also be delayed under the proposal. Links to the U.S. EPA final regulation (dated December 12, 2016) and the proposed compliance dates are attached below. Note that the Federal Register document starts on page 89674 with preamble and background information; the regulation text starts on page 89724.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions From Composite Wood Products remains fully in effect. At a later date, CARB staff plans to provide guidance regarding how the U.S. EPA and CARB regulations interact.

U.S. EPA Regulation: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/12/2016-27987/formaldehyde-emission-standards-for-composite-wood-products>

U.S. EPA Proposed Extensions to Compliance Dates:
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0244>

If you have questions regarding the CARB ATCM, please contact Mr. Lynn Baker at lynn.baker@arb.ca.gov or (916) 324-6997.